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U. S. Department of Agriculture
Office of Information

February 11, 1946

Reserve

FACT SHEET

on Food Conservation for Peace

More people in the world will be hungry and starving this year than at any time during the war.

While people in the United States are eating more than ever before, 125 million Europeans are getting less than $2/3$ as much in calories, 28 million people less than half as much, and large groups less than $1/3$ as much as we are.

Compared with about 3,300 calories per person in the U.S., in half of Europe the urban population is existing on less than 2,000 calories per day.

Bread ration in France and Italy, for example, is only about $1/2$ a loaf a day -- and $2/3$ of their diet is bread.

Until recently people in Europe were getting along by eating up the 1945 crops, but the next 6 months will be worse than the last six... because consumption of the 1945 crops has been taking place more rapidly than usual.

Our whole occupation program may be imperiled if Germany is cut below the subsistence level, which is less than half of the U. S. consumption in calories.

Democracy, freedom and the future peace of the world, the reasons for which we fought the war, will be imperiled if our friends in allied and liberated lands are permitted to starve.

REASONS FOR THE CRISIS

World food production per person this year is about $1/8$ below pre-war, and in war-ravaged Europe $1/5$ below normal.

Drought and the effects of war have reduced the wheat crops of Europe and North Africa, with some areas having the worst shortage in many years.

Food and grain stocks have been used up faster than anticipated -- in the U. S., in Europe, and throughout the world.

Transportation is a serious problem, especially rail shipments to U. S. ports and also inside Europe.

MUCH IS BEING DONE

Record food shipments, especially wheat, are going into war-torn countries, both from the United States and from other Nations.

The United States is shipping record amounts of wheat, many times more than pre-war, and also more than normal amounts of meat and dairy products, particularly cheese.

Food production in the U. S., including wheat, has broken all records in the past few years, a third above pre-war. But the U. S. produces only 10 percent of the world's food.

Great Britain has ordered further cuts in the ration of fats and eggs and has increased the extraction rate of wheat from 80 to 85 percent.

NINE-POINT PROGRAM

The President on February 6 announced these measures:

1. Campaign to conserve food, especially bread -- by consumers, retailers, and bakers.
2. Stopping use of wheat and limiting use of other grains for alcohol and beer. Saving: 20 million bushels of grain by June 30.
3. Extracting more flour from wheat and limiting distribution of flour. Saving: 25 million bushels of wheat by June 30.
4. Control over inventories of wheat and flour.
5. Rail priorities for wheat, corn, meat, and other essential foods.
6. Control over exports of wheat and flour.
7. Substantial exports of meat, fats and oils, and dairy products -- especially cheese and evaporated milk. increases for
8. Additional shipping for food to Europe and for movement of Philippine copra (to produce cocoanut oil).
9. Conservation of grain used for feeding livestock.

WHAT THE PEOPLE CAN DO...

To help supply food to save starving people and thereby safeguard the goals for which we fought the war -- peace, freedom and democracy...

Consumers: Conserve food, especially bread.

Food Retailers: Ration scarce foods informally. Explain why certain foods are needed more abroad.

Food Manufacturers and Processors: Abide by new regulations. Explain need for such action to avert starvation abroad.

Millers and Bakers: Abide by new regulations. Conserve flour and bread. Tell consumers that their diets will not suffer.

Farmers: Market hogs and cattle at lighter weights, cull poultry flocks, raise fewer chickens and turkeys -- to save grain.

Polls of public opinion show that the American people are overwhelmingly willing to reduce their own food consumption to prevent starvation in Europe.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

1. Statement by the President. February 6, 1946. (Copies: White House)
2. "World Food Situation -- 1946," Comprehensive report in about 200 pages by Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, U.S. Department of Agriculture. (Copies of release on this report -- release # 277-46: Press Service, Office of Information, U.S. Department of Agriculture).
3. Script, "The Wheat Crisis in Europe," on NBC program "Our Foreign Policy," February 2 at 7PM. (Copies: State Department)
4. Digest of the above script on 1 page. (Copies: U.S. Department of Agriculture.)
5. Press release of February 6 on diets in Europe as reported by the Emergency Economic Committee. (Copies: State Department)
6. "The Nutritional Value of 80 Percent Flour," by the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, U.S.D.A. (Release # 282-46: Press Service, Office of Information, U.S. Department of Agriculture).
7. Statement on what other countries are doing to supply food for Europe. (Copies: State Department).
8. Speech by Secretary of State James F. Byrnes, Washington, D. C., Monday, February 11. (Copies: State Department).
9. Speech by D. A. Fitzgerald on "Today's Headline," ABC, Friday, February 8, at 7 PM. (Copies: Press Service, Office of Information, U.S. Department of Agriculture.)

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